

**Testimony of
Javier Lojan, Acting Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation**

**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management
Friday, January 30, 2026 1:00 P.M.**

Hearing on Cleanliness Legislation

Good afternoon, Chair Sanchez and members of the Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. I am Javier Lojan, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, and I am joined today by Joshua Goodman, Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs & Customer Experience. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee on these two pieces of legislation related to cleanliness.

DSNY is committed to keeping New York City clean, safe, and healthy. The Department sweeps the streets, empties litter baskets, tows derelict vehicles, and removes graffiti. We also clear snow and ice from city streets, which we are still in the process of doing following last weekend's snowstorm. But we can't do this alone. Property owners are our partners in maintaining street cleanliness and keeping sidewalks clear. They are required to maintain a clean sidewalk, to remove litter and debris from the first 18 inches into the street, and to set out waste at the proper time and in the proper receptacles. They are also responsible for clearing snow and ice to create a four-foot clear path on their sidewalks so people can pass safely. DSNY has the authority to enforce these requirements, and issues violations to a specific address.

First on the bill sponsored by Chair Sanchez. When DSNY traverses the city, we observe and receive complaints about dirty conditions, as well as failure to remove snow and ice at bike share stations, bus stops, and other locations that are in the public right of way. Unfortunately, it's the neighborhood's residents and property owners who have to live with these conditions every day. The Administration supports the intent of this legislation to keep the area around these structures clean. We do have some concerns with the bill as currently written and would like to work with the Council to further this goal. We thank the Chair and Speaker Menin for their focus on cleanliness, quality of life, and safety and we look forward to working with the Council and our sister agencies on this important issue.

Next on the bill sponsored by Council Member Abreu which would require DSNY to implement a pilot program to clean and remove odors and spills from sidewalks in commercial corridors using power washing machines. Keeping sidewalks clean is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. With DSNY's limited resources, we are focused on streets and shared public spaces that the City is responsible for. That said, we are always open to testing new technologies

to enhance cleanliness and we understand there are some heavily trafficked commercial corridors where sidewalk conditions sometimes exceed the normal course of regular cleaning by adjacent property owners. Some of these commercial corridors already benefit from supplemental sanitation service provided by Business Improvement Districts. DSNY would be interested in working with the sponsor on ways to promote cleanliness of all commercial corridors, including those that do not currently benefit from a BID or supplemental sanitation provider. We look forward to discussing this goal and the bill with the Council. The Law Department is also reviewing the bill for legal issues.

Finally, while not on today's agenda, DSNY supports additional legislation related to cleanliness in commercial corridors, which would expand the hours during which the Department may enforce commercial cleanliness rules. Right now, commercial cleanliness rules can only be enforced during two one-hour blocks each day, which significantly limits our ability to keep these corridors clean. Extending enforcement authority to during business hours would give DSNY more tools to do our job and lead to cleaner commercial corridors in each of your districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We look forward to working with this Committee to enhance cleanliness and improve quality of life for all New Yorkers. We now welcome any questions.